

MARVEL

LEGACY

THE SLINGERS RETURN

13



**DAVID
SLINEY
ROSENBERG**

BEN REILLY:

THE SCARLET SPIDER



Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of Spider-Man. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world...



BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

Following a misguided turn as a super villain, **BEN REILLY** has made a home for himself in Las Vegas and has been trying to become a better man. In his quest for redemption, Ben was caught in the middle of a sibling rivalry between his ally, a casino magnate named **CASSANDRA MERCURY**, and her brother **SILAS THORNE**.

Fellow clone and Scarlet Spider **KAINE PARKER** followed Ben to Vegas and became the unofficial protector of a veterans' shelter struggling to stay open in the fallout of **SECRET EMPIRE**. When the landlord threatened to sell the property, Kaine hatched a plan to save his new friends.

After Ben brutally attacked Thorne, the reunited **SLINGERS** sprang into action and kidnapped Cassandra in order to force Ben's surrender to the police. But the Scarlet Spiders have discovered that one of the Slingers, the resurrected **BLACK MARVEL**, is not exactly what he seems...

WRITER
PETER DAVID

ARTIST
WILL SLINEY

COLOR ARTIST
RACHELLE ROSENBERG

LETTERER
VC'S **JOE CARAMAGNA**

COVER ARTISTS
KHARY RANDOLPH & EMILIO LOPEZ

ASSISTANT EDITOR
TOM GRONEMAN

EDITOR
DEVIN LEWIS

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
NICK LOWE

EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE



HOW THE HELL DID THAT PRODIGY GUY KNOW ABOUT THE DIOGENES INITIATIVE?

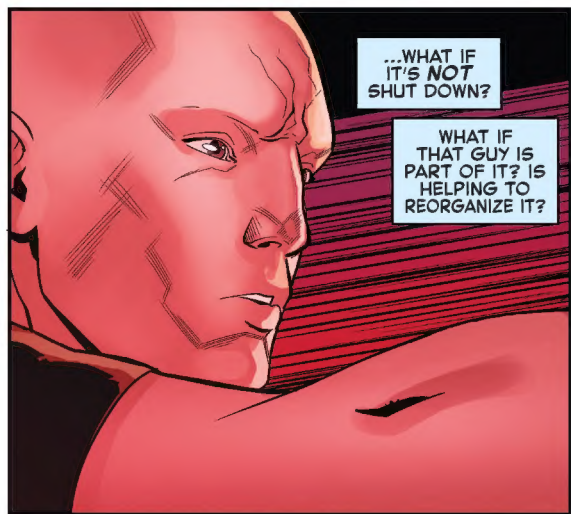
NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THAT, IT WAS TOP SECRET.

IT'S CLOSED DOWN AND EVERYBODY ASSOCIATED WITH IT IS DEAD.



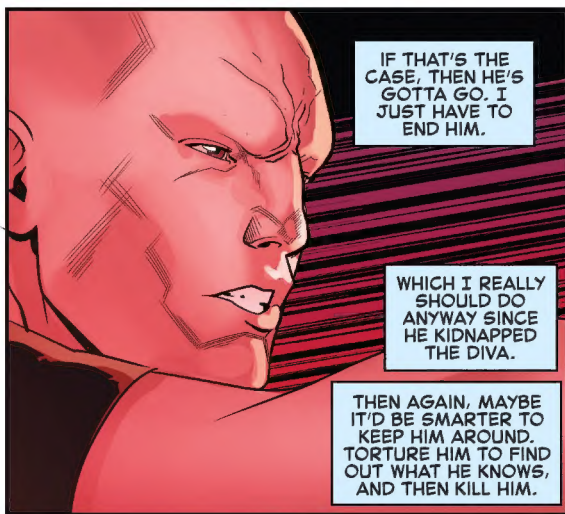
I MEAN, YEAH, CASSANDRA KNOWS, BUT SHE WOULDN'T SPREAD IT AROUND.

WHAT IF...



...WHAT IF IT'S NOT SHUT DOWN?

WHAT IF THAT GUY IS PART OF IT? IS HELPING TO REORGANIZE IT?



IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN HE'S GOTTA GO. I JUST HAVE TO END HIM.

WHICH I REALLY SHOULD DO ANYWAY SINCE HE KIDNAPPED THE DIVA.

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT'D BE SMARTER TO KEEP HIM AROUND. TORTURE HIM TO FIND OUT WHAT HE KNOWS, AND THEN KILL HIM.



CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW. GOTTA MAKE A CALL.

CICCONI? THIS IS SLATE.

SLATE?! I TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME WHEN I'M ON THE JOB--AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU CALLING ME ON A POLICE CHANNEL?!



BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO SEND SOME COPS TO THE THORNE THEATER, TO CLEAN UP THE MESS...THAT I'M ABOUT TO MAKE.



THE BLACK
MARVEL IS BACK.
FIGURES. I
MEAN I SHOULD
BE SURPRISED...

...BUT I'M THE
POSTER BOY FOR
RESURRECTION, SO
WHATEVER. MAYBE I
SHOULD ASK HIM
HOW PRINCE IS.

CYBER IS
DEAD. ALL THE
RECORDS
SHOW--

CAN'T
TRUST THE
RECORDS, PRODIGY.
EVERYBODY
KNOWS THAT.

HE'S NOT
ALIVE IN THE SAME
SENSE THAT THE
BLACK MARVEL IS.
CYBER AT LEAST
HAS A SOUL...

...BLACKENED
AND SCARRED AS
IT MAY BE.

BUT THE
MARVEL IS A
SOULLESS
ABOMINATION.

THAT'S IT.
NOW YOU'VE
HURT MY
FEELINGS.



I MAY HAVE TO HURT YOURS IN RETURN.

KRAAAAK



HE'S A DEMON.

A WHAT?

A DEMON. FROM HELL. ONLY SUCH A CREATURE OF DARKNESS COULD BREAK OUT OF MY HOLD.

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

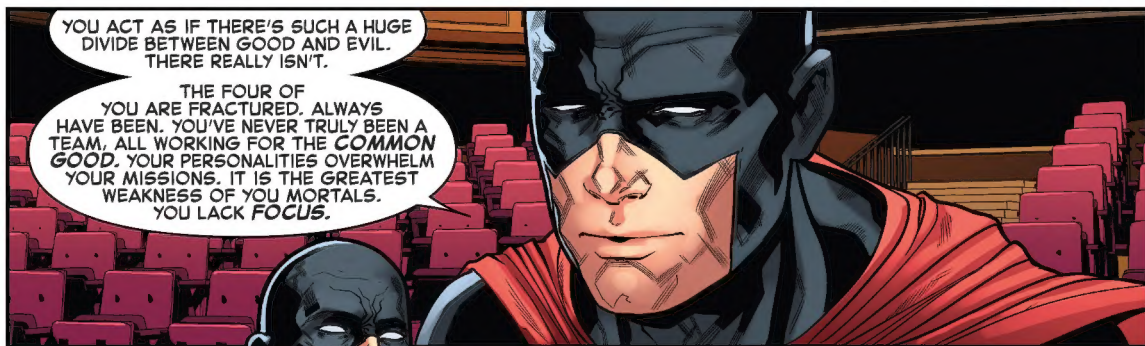


IT'S TRUE, SPIDER. IN BEING REBORN, I CONFINED MYSELF TO THE FORM OF THE BLACK MARVEL. I HAVE ALL HIS KNOWLEDGE, HIS ABILITIES...

...BUT IT WAS HIS UNFINISHED BUSINESS THAT INTRIGUED ME MOST--TO CONTINUE TEACHING THE SLINGERS.

THERE IS SO MUCH MORE FOR YOU TO LEARN, AND I CAN IMPART THAT WISDOM TO YOU.

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY TEACH US-?



YOU ACT AS IF THERE'S SUCH A HUGE DIVIDE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. THERE REALLY ISN'T.

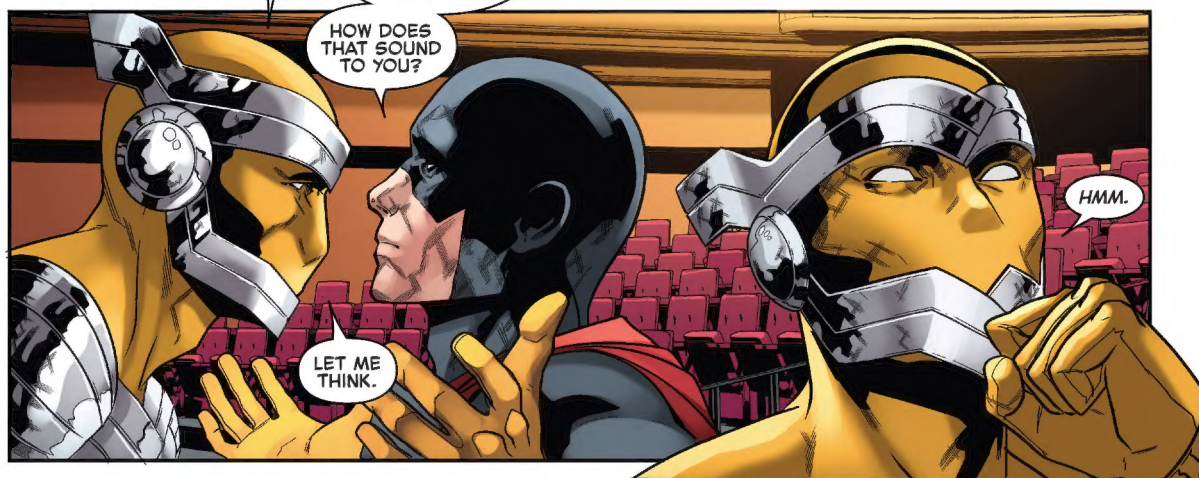
THE FOUR OF YOU ARE FRACTURED. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. YOU'VE NEVER TRULY BEEN A TEAM. ALL WORKING FOR THE **COMMON GOOD**. YOUR PERSONALITIES OVERWHELM YOUR MISSIONS. IT IS THE GREATEST WEAKNESS OF YOU MORTALS. YOU LACK **FOCUS**.



EVEN THE SCARLET SPIDER--A HERO, A GOOD GUY, WHO NEARLY BEAT A HELPLESS MAN TO DEATH.*

CRIPES, DOES EVERYBODY KNOW ABOUT THAT?

*BACK IN BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER #10, CLONEHEADS! --EDITOR





NO
THANKS.

WAAAAAM

OOOOOFFFF!



YOU SONS
OF--!



SHUT UP,
CYBER.

YOU'RE
NOT WORTHY
OF WEARING THAT
UNIFORM. IT BELONGED
TO A GUY WHO WAS
WORTH A HUNDRED
OF YOU.



SO YOUR
UNIFORM RESISTS
LASER BEAMS.
IMPRESSIVE.

TELL ME,
HOW DOES
IT DO...



...AGAINST
ADAMANTIUM
TALONS?

YEAH!
NOT SO
GOOD!

ARRHHH!

SKRAAAAAATCH



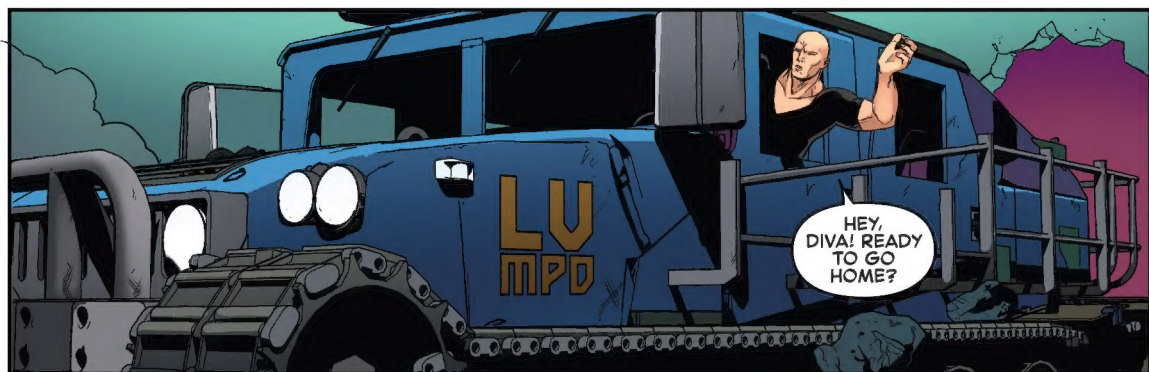
THAT'S IT,
HORNET! SHOW
HIM THE--

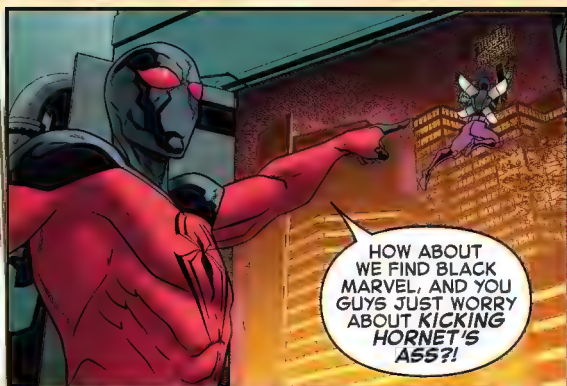
EH?
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE?

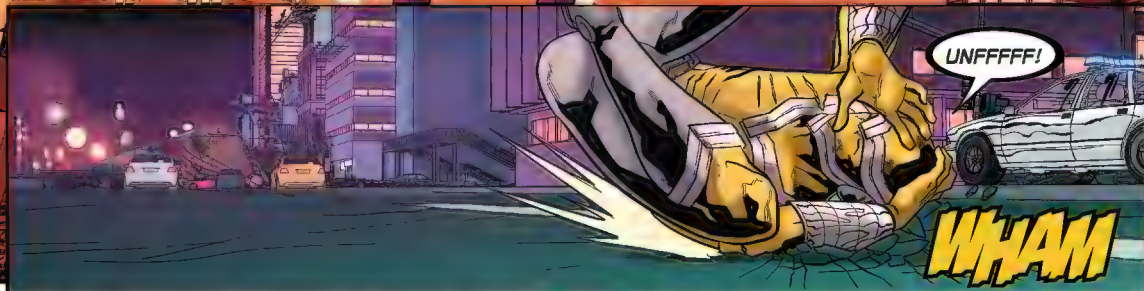
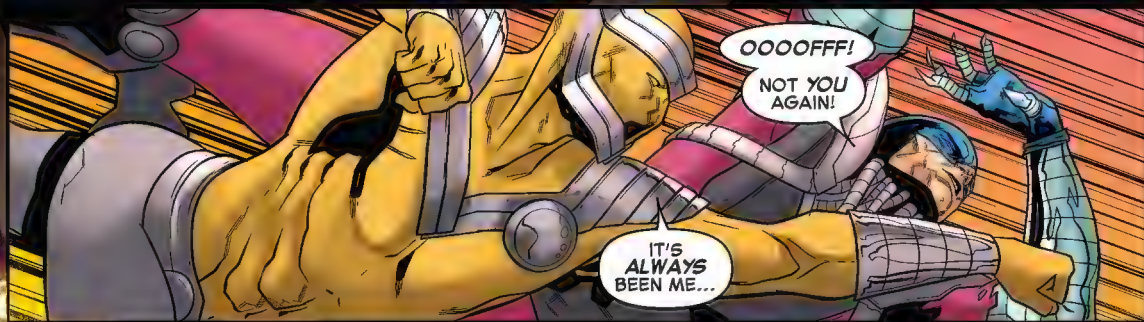
RRRRRRRR

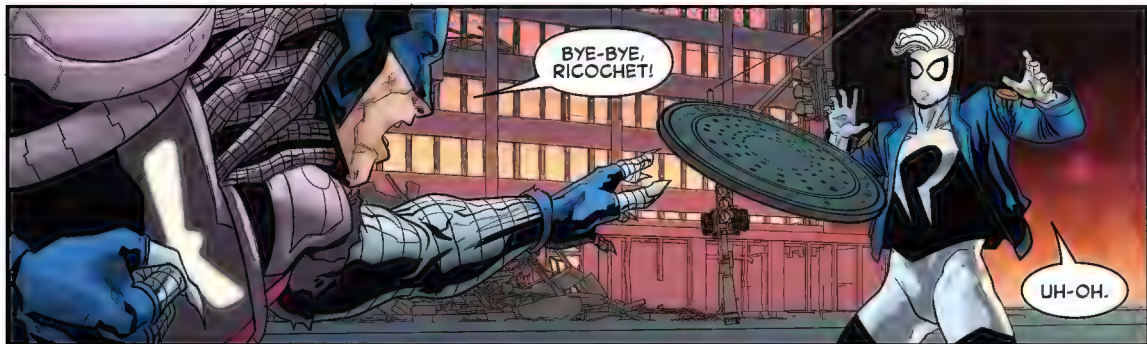
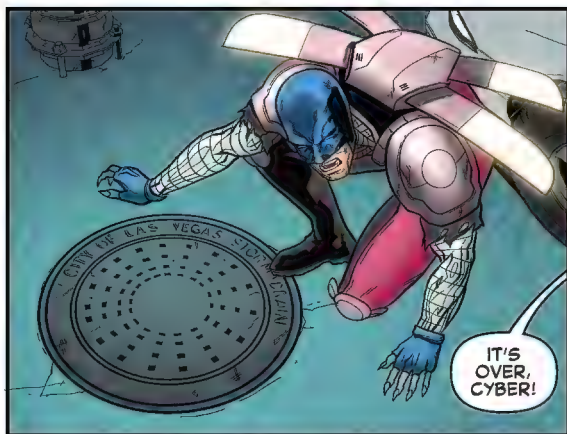
BRAKIDOOM!













INTERSECTION
COMING UP!

DAMN.
YOU HANG
RIGHT, I'LL GO
STRAIGHT.

AND
IF HE WENT
LEFT?

THEN WE'RE
SCREWED.
NOW MOVE!



WISH I HAD A
SPIDER-TRACER
I COULD HAVE
THROWN ON HIM.

I'VE GOTTA WHIP UP
SOME OF THOSE TO
USE IN THE FUT--



WHOOAAA!
WHAT THE
HELL--?!

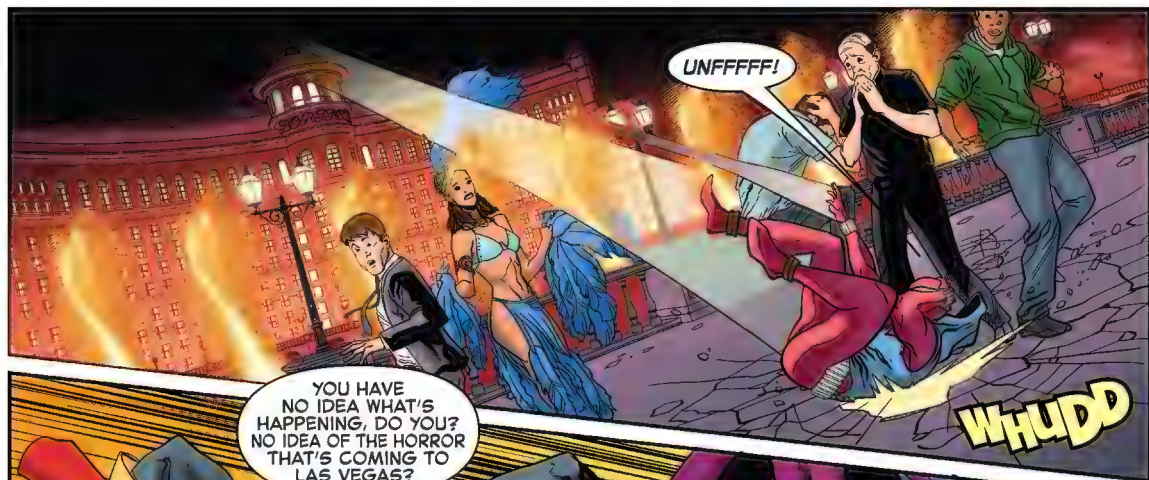
JUST USING
SOME OLD
TRICKS FROM BACK
HOME. DID YOU
LIKE IT?

HERE'S
ANOTHER.

WAAAA

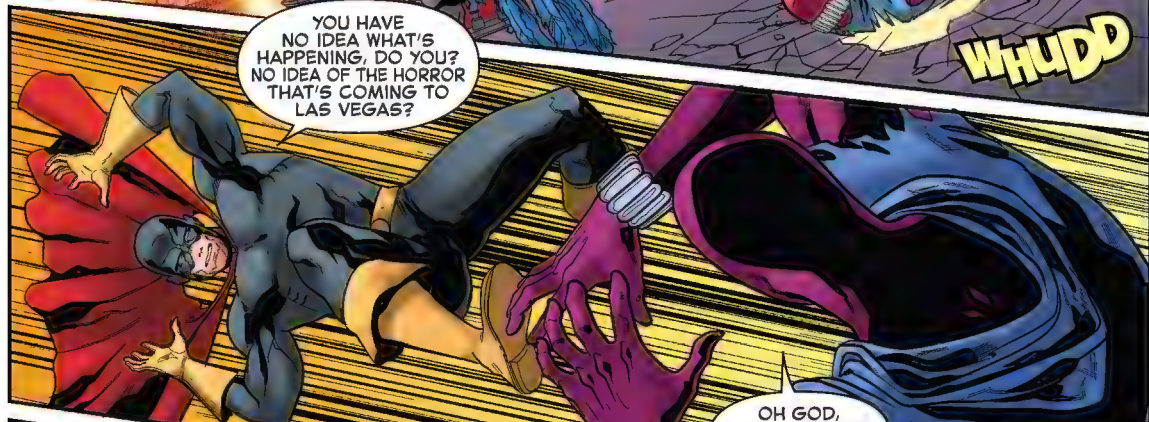


UH-OH.



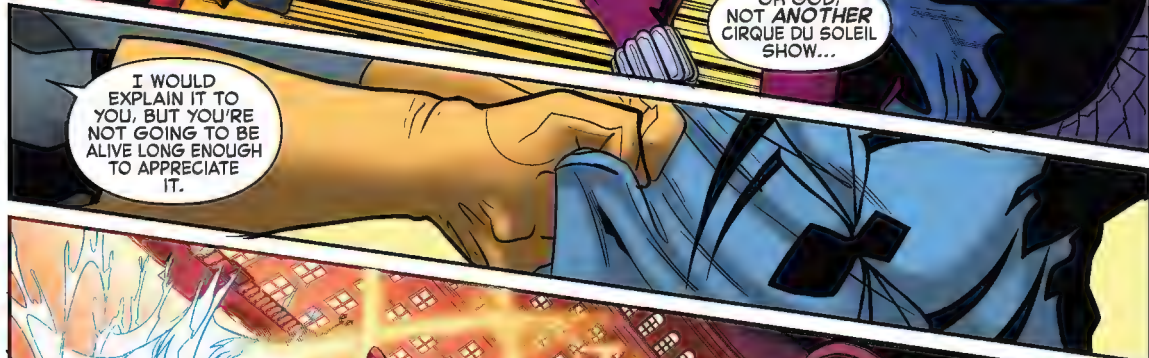
UNFFFFF!

WHUDD



YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING, DO YOU? NO IDEA OF THE HORROR THAT'S COMING TO LAS VEGAS?

OH GOD, NOT ANOTHER CIRQUE DU SOLEIL SHOW...



I WOULD EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO APPRECIATE IT.



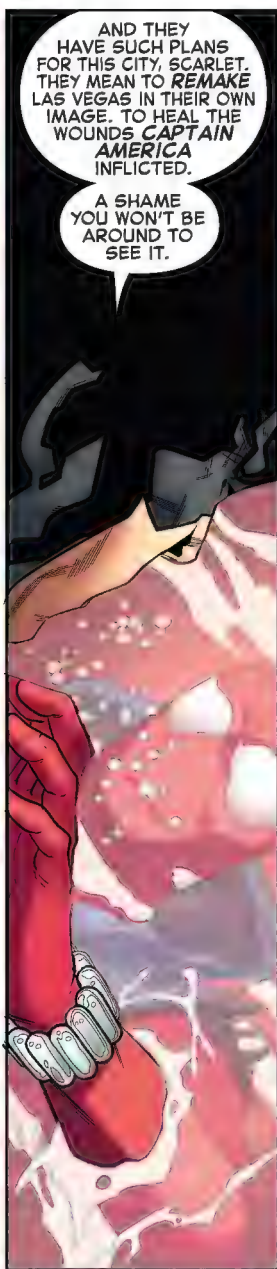
SPLASH

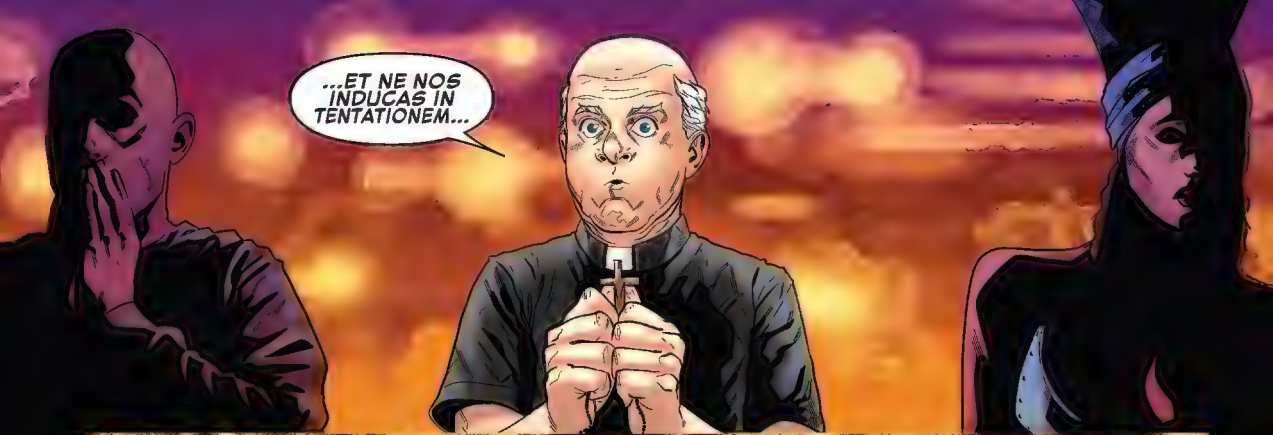


HI. THIS... IS GOD.

WH--?!

I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME, RIGHT NOW.





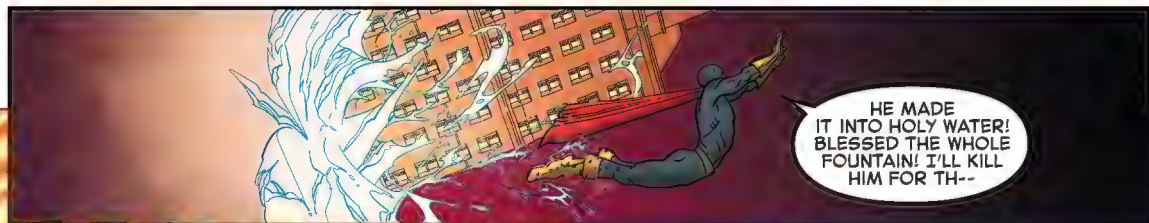
...ET NE NOS
INDUCAS IN
TENTATIONEM...



STOP!
STOPPPPP!



...ET IN
HORA MORTIS
NOSTRAE.
AMEN!

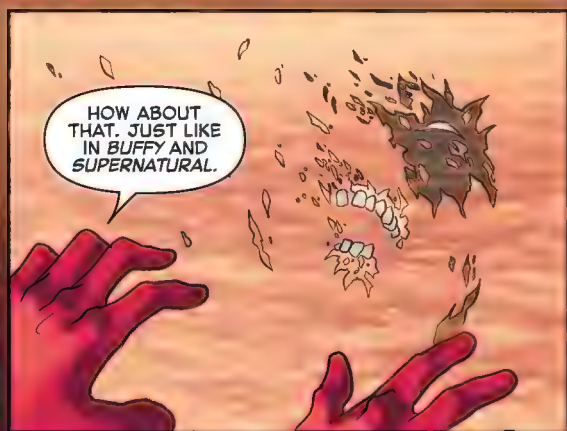


HE MADE
IT INTO HOLY WATER!
BLESSED THE WHOLE
FOUNTAIN! I'LL KILL
HIM FOR TH--



GOING
SOMEWHERE?

No!





WELL, WELL. LOOK WHO FINALLY CAUGHT UP.

WHAT HAPPENED TO CYBER?



HE GOT AWAY.

OF COURSE HE DID.

SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW? YOU GOING TO KIDNAP CASSANDRA AND THREATEN TO KILL HER AGAIN UNLESS I--



WE WERE NEVER GOING TO KILL HER. LOOK, WE'RE STILL NOT THRILLED WITH THE WAY THAT YOU ALMOST BATTERED THAT MAN TO DEATH...

...BUT CONSIDERING WHAT'S HAPPENED, I DON'T THINK WE'RE REALLY IN A POSITION TO PASS JUDGMENT.



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I KNOW WHAT I DID WAS WRONG. IT'S...

...COMPLICATED.

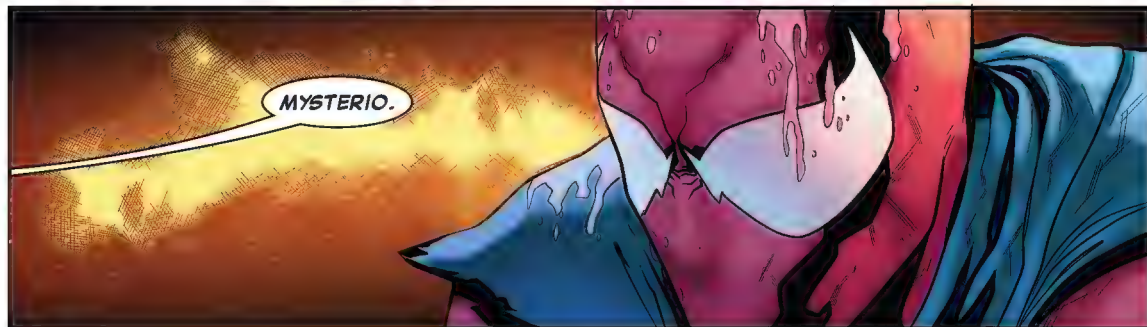
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT.

WE'RE GOING TO HOLD YOU TO THAT.

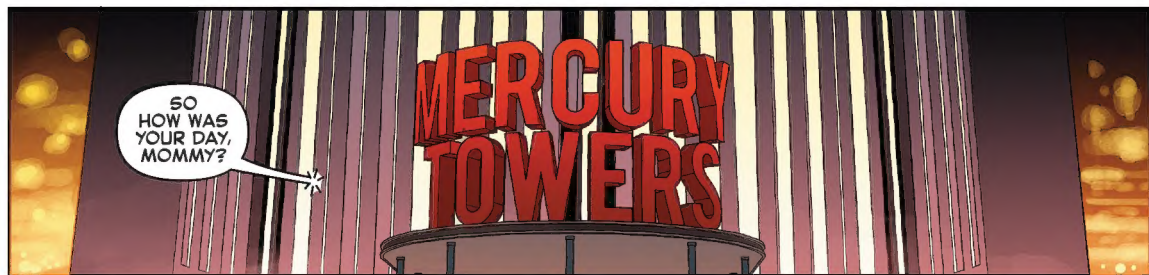


SCARLET... I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

YEAH? WHAT?



MYSTERIO.



SLATE
TOLD ME YOU
FIGURED OUT WHERE
I WAS. MUCH THANKS
FOR THAT, AND
FOR RESCUING
ME.

IT WAS NO
PROBLEM.

STILL, I
OWE YOU.

GOOD.

"GOOD"?

I HAVE A
FRIEND WHO IS IN
DEEP FINANCIAL
TROUBLE.

OH. OF
COURSE. A
"FRIEND."

NO, IT
REALLY *IS* A FRIEND.
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULD
SAY SO. I'LL TELL YOU
THE ENTIRE STORY...

"...AND THEN
YOU DO WHAT
YOU WANT."

VETERANS CENTER

HEY. HEY.

GOT
SOME
NEWS.

OH, JOY.
BECAUSE THE
NEWS I'VE GOTTEN
SO FAR JUST
CAN'T GET
ANY--

--BETTER?

BANK US

Veterans Center Las Vegas
Tom Blake
4-28-2000

Check No. 000034

Branch No.

20



OH...MY GOD.

OH MY GOD. IS THIS...

...IS THIS REAL?



SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO RENT A BETTER PLACE. HELL, PROBABLY ENOUGH TO BUY ONE OUTRIGHT.

THIS IS **MIRACULOUS!** HOW DID YOU--?

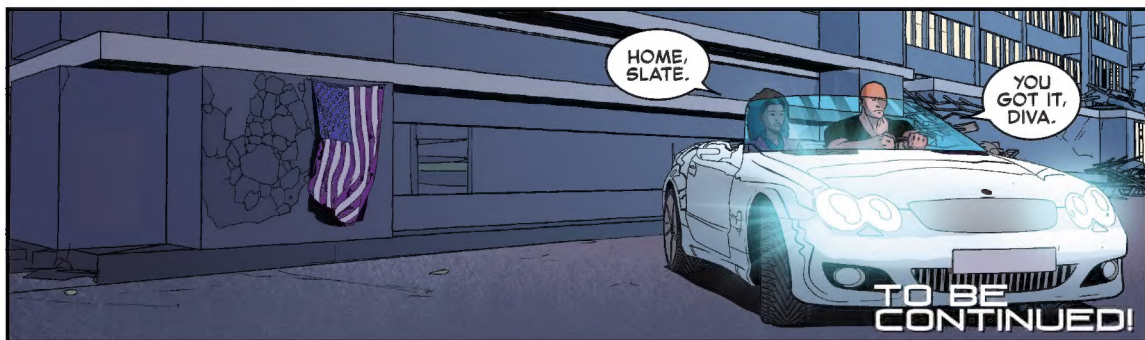
I CAN'T MAKE OUT THE SIGNATURE. CASS... SOMETHING?

SHE'S RICH AND I HAVE A WAY WITH PEOPLE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.



YOU'VE SAVED US! YOU SAVED US, Kaine!

YEAH, WELL, I DO THAT FROM TIME TO T--



HOME, SLATE.

YOU GOT IT, DIVA.

TO BE CONTINUED!

SCARLET LETTERS

Send e-mail to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (please mark as "OKAY TO PRINT") and letters c/o Spider-Office, 135 West 50th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10020

Hello, CloneHeads!

A belated Happy New Year to you all! Spider-Office Assistant Editor Tom coming to you live (relatively) and in print (completely) from this great little hot dog cart outside Rockefeller Cen—I mean, my desk at Marvel HQ!

With lucky #13 now behind us, we're gearing up to bring you the next batch of exciting and action-packed Scarlet Spider adventures!

Some mail from 2017 has already been piling up in 2018 from your loyal Scarlet Spider fans, so let's get to it!



Hey there Spider-Team,

First of all, I'll be honest—I haven't read a lot Spidey stuff since BRAND NEW DAY. It seemed like a lot of wasted potential. Having Peter's identity public could've led to some really interesting storytelling, but then SCARLET SPIDER #8 hit the shelves in my local comic-book store and you brought back the Slingers!

Thank you! Marvel has such a wealth of amazing characters. Is there any chance they could get their own series? Even if it's a limited run, it would be great. There's a whole new generation of readers that would no doubt relate to all the drama of the group's dynamic. My fingers are crossed.

Steven Gledhill
Blackpool, UK

Hello, Steven! So the Slingers brought you back to the Spidey family, huh? That's great to hear! Returning to a comic after a while is like reuniting with old friends. Glad you enjoyed #8! If the Slingers do get their own series—you'll be the first to know.

I've been hoarding back issues of BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER so I could read them all at one time. It's like binge-watching your favorite show on Netflix. Only better. We've all become richer because of Peter David's work. I don't know if he has 12 years of BEN REILLY to give us like he did with the Hulk, but let's hope so.

You're a mensch, Peter. You're one of the good guys. Long may you run. Thanks for bringing a smile to this old rabbi's face.

Rabbi Steven J. Lebow
Senior Rabbi
Temple Kol Emeth
Atlanta, GA

The Spider-Office applauds you as well, Peter! We better set some deadlines for the next 12 years of BEN REILLY so he can get started!

I have to be honest...after CLONE CONSPIRACY I thought the character of Ben Reilly was beyond redemption. However, with SCARLET SPIDER #7 PAD masterfully removed all doubts from my mind. On behalf of myself and all of the Ben Reilly fans, we thank you for restoring a great character back to greatness!

PAD, please don't stop writing this book... you are the MAN!!! I look forward to seeing what you have in store for us in future issues, and is it possible to also see more of Kaine?

See you all on the flip side.

Timothy Borgman

Tim! The Borg-Man! Thank you for taking the time to let us know how much you're enjoying BEN REILLY. As we say here at Marvel HQ: "Mo' Kaine, mo' problems." No, not at all. No one says that. Kaine is an incredibly compelling character and his trials as a Scarlet Spider over the last few years have made for some thrilling comics!

Hey guys,

SCARLET SPIDER is such a great comic. You've found the perfect balance when making a funny character and it's just the best. I enjoy other characters that crack jokes too, but it seems more and more these days that when a character is supposed to be funny they end up coming off as if they're copying Deadpool's style of being "over the top," or act like Spider-Man with hit-or-miss jokes that struggle between being witty or corny.

Ben Reilly is more believable—he is just a sincerely funny dude without even noticing it. He doesn't try to "be funny," he IS funny, all while just being himself with a style all his own that doesn't copy anyone else. I really appreciate how genuine of a character you've made him out to be and I'd be willing to bet you guys are hilarious in person. Please keep it coming and don't change a thing!

Mike Pike
Winston Salem, NC

First of all, Mike—Spider-Man is ALWAYS funny. He's a national treasure (when not being a threat and/or menace). Second of all, thank you for appreciating Mr. Reilly's wit! The Marvel writers, editors and creatives put a lot of work, love, time, sweat and blood-magic sacrifices into making these characters not only consistent but continuously compelling as well.

I am a Spaniard pal who has been reading real non-translated Marvel since a few months ago, and the coolest thing I discovered is: You still have letters to the editor! It is terrific! You had a Spanish one a long time ago, but that time passed and

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

I really miss it. It is cool to read what other fans are thinking.

Actually, I am in love with almost all Spider-mags, so it has been very hard to select one to write about. But Peter David is my favorite so I decided to dedicate my first Spider-letter here. (Being honest, I wrote to other Marvel mags before, so this is my second marvelous letter, but first Spider-letter). I am crazy about what Peter David is doing. I always liked rascal characters so Scarlet Spider has climbed very fast to be one my favorite characters. Aunt June could kick the \$%& out of Aunt May!

I did not know Mark Bagley's work until now. But his style fits perfectly for underground characters. That guy is dynamite!

If you let me do a little suggestion: Jean Grey's series had a little J.G. in the upper corner. It is a pretty detail that helps identify the comic, and it recalls the old upper corner of the classic Marvel mag. It would be great if Scarlet fans have a little S.S. on the cover too.

So long and thanks for reading. Make Mine Marvel!

Néstor Villarubia

Thank you for finally writing a letter and sending your "first" one to us! Are you saying that you want an Aunt June vs. Aunt May crossover one-shot? Readers! If you've got cover ideas for that one, send them in! Mark, Will, Andre and all of our BEN REILLY artists have nailed these characters and this grittier Spidey-world in my humble opinion.



Well, that's it for this issue! Keep those letters coming and join us next time for BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER #14—on sale 2/14!

**Later!
Tom**

